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UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION/UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND JOINT COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Note by the Executive Director

SUMMARY

In order to maintain the momentum of the World Conference on Education for All held at Jomtien, Thailand, from 5 to 9 March 1990, and the first meeting of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)/UNICEF Joint Committee on Education, the second meeting of the Joint Committee on Education was held in Paris on 26 and 27 October 1990. The report of the meeting is being submitted to the Executive Board in document E/ICEF/1991/L.13. The meeting reviewed and expressed its satisfaction with the progress made by the two organizations since the first meeting. The meeting further recommended that the two Executive Boards endorse the Declaration and Plan of Action of the World Summit for Children and further endorse eight priority areas for joint cooperation. These include building a monitoring system, ensuring girls' and women's education, training and staff development, strengthening planning capacities, promoting innovative experiences, supporting child-care activities, undertaking a feasibility study of the mass provision of strategic inputs and working jointly on the ethos and content of basic education. The Executive Director recommends that all the recommendations made by the Joint Committee on Education be adopted by the Executive Board.

READEX FICHE

1. The second meeting of the UNESCO/UNICEF Joint Committee on Education was held at UNESCO headquarters in Paris on 26 and 27 October 1990. The report of the meeting is being submitted to the Executive Board in document E/ICEF/1991/L.13. The UNICEF Executive Board was represented by the Chairman of the Board, Mrs. Lisbet Palme (Sweden); Mr. Gabriel Fernandez (Liberia); Mrs. Yvette le Quellec (France); Mrs. Theresa C. Garuba (Nigeria); and Mr. Stanislaw Trepczynski (Poland). The UNICEF Executive Director and several members of the UNICEF secretariat also participated.

2. Mrs. Lisbet Palme was elected by acclamation to chair the second meeting of the Joint Committee on Education. Mr. Andre Kramp, a member of the UNESCO Executive Board, and Mr. Fernandez, were elected as rapporteurs.

3. In their introductory remarks, both the Director-General of UNESCO and the Executive Director of UNICEF expressed gratitude at the fact that both agencies were making progress in meeting Education for All challenges. Both heads of agencies highlighted that the current events were a turning point for children in particular and development in general, and that this unique opportunity should be fully seized by the two organizations in their joint efforts to provide education for all.

4. During this follow-up meeting, the Joint Committee on Education reviewed the situation and progress reports presented by both organizations. The Joint Committee considered the three major meetings of the year - the World Conference on Education for All, the Second United Nations Conference on Least Developed Countries held in Paris and the World Summit for Children held in New York - unique in the development of basic education and for children. It was also noted that the Convention on the Rights of the Child had also come into force, the first human rights convention to be adopted so expeditiously.

5. One of the recommendations of the Joint Committee at its first meeting (item 14), was a request to the secretariats of UNESCO and UNICEF jointly to prepare an assessment of further opportunities for cooperation in basic education in their respective programmes at the national, regional and international levels and to take action to strengthen modes of cooperation, reporting thereon to their respective Boards and the Joint Committee on Education. As such, the two secretariats jointly prepared priority areas of cooperation that were submitted to the Joint Committee. These priority areas were considered by the Committee at its second meeting and were recommended, with two additional areas, for submission to their respective Executive Boards for endorsement. The recommended priority areas of cooperation reflect the substance and priority of the World Conference on Education for All. Moreover, they also complement and correspond to the UNESCO Action Plan for follow-up on the World Conference and UNICEF basic education goals for the 1990s.

6. The Joint Committee recommended that the Executive Boards of UNESCO and UNICEF endorse the Declaration and Plan of Action of the World Summit for Children and further endorse eight priority areas for cooperation between

UNESCO and UNICEF, as outlined below and described under item 6 "Recommendations of the Committee" of the report (E/ICEF/1991/L.13):

(a) Building a monitoring system linked to Education for All goals;

(b) Ensuring girls' and women's education, including the development and use of the "third channel" as appropriate;

(c) Training and staff development in basic education;

(d) Strengthening the planning capacities which are responsible for formulating child-oriented policies and programmes and advocating appropriate action to meet basic learning needs;

(e) Promoting innovative experiences in basic education, including their analysis and dissemination;

(f) Supporting innovative child-care activities;

(g) Undertaking a feasibility study of the mass provision of strategic inputs, e.g. educational materials and equipment;

(h) Working jointly on the ethos and content of basic education, combining basic skills with cultural aspects for human development.

7. The Executive Director concurs with all the recommendations of the Joint Committee on Education and recommends that the Executive Board adopt the recommendations as contained in document E/ICEF/1991/L.13.